Report of United Nations on Aids Deaths

†1861. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per a recent report of United Nations about 70 million persons in developing countries in Asia and Africa will die of AIDS in the forthcoming 18 years;

(b) if so, the estimated deaths in this connection in India during these years;

(c) whether any action plan has been formulated to prevent this epidemic effectively; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

Report of Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and World Health Organisation (WHO) released in December, 2002 does not contain any such statement.

No estimated deaths in this connection have been made for India for these years;

(c) and (d) Govt, of India has launched comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme with the following key components.

* Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections etc.

* Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.

* Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

* Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.

* Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sector.

Establishment of Medical Colleges in remote areas

1862. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish medical colleges in remote areas of different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of new medical colleges to be established with their locations during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal. However, any applicant fulfilling the eligibility and qualifying criteria prescribed in the "Establishement of Medical College Regulations 1999" brought out by Medical Council of India can apply to the Central Government for permission to establish a medical college.

(c) At present, 31 proposals for opening of new medical colleges from different parts of the country are pending with the Government of India/Medical Council of India. No time frame can be given for clearance of these proposals as clearance of these proposals depend upon fulfillment of qualifying criteria prescribed in the Regulations of Medical Council of India, availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendations of Medical Council of India thereon.

Registration of Diagnostic Laboratories

1863. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the heavy import duty on reagents used by diagnostic industry is affecting the industry;